

Adrian Van Slyck House
114 Front Street
Schenectady
Schenectady County
New York

HABS No. NY-3273

HABS
NY,
47-SCHE,
23-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
145 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ADRIAN VAN SLYCK HOUSE

HABS
NY,
47-SCHENECTADY,
23-

Address: 114 Front Street, Schenectady, Schenectady County,
New York.

Present Owner John A. Miller.
and Occupant:

Present Use: Residence:

Brief Statement A mid-18th century Dutch house with interesting
of Significance: architectural features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: Adrian Van Slyck; Bregtje Van Slyck (widow of Adrian), 1748-59; Martin Van Slyck (nephew), to 1784; John Sander, to 1806; Van Zanvoord and Coyne, to 1810; Timothy Capen, to 1815; George Moon, to 1850; Catherine Moon (wife), to 1871; A. C. Van Epps, from about 1875 to about 1905. Purchased by John A. Miller from Federal Housing Administration in 1940.

B. Date of Erection: Probably before 1748, perhaps as early as 1742.

C. Original Plans, Construction, etc.: Thought to have been a simple, rectangle with central chimney dividing it, originally; original location of stairway unknown.

D. Notes on Alterations and Additions: South portion was added, probably before 1800. The Symon Van Speck house (early 19th century) was moved from another site and placed against this one on the east side, about 1795. Following that, probably early in the 19th century, a common brick wall was built to form the facade of the two. Alterations, especially interior trim, were made by Van Epps in the 1870's. The property had deteriorated, apparently, in the early 20th century; it was divided into apartments, probably in the late 1930's. Installation of plumbing, electricity and central heating probably date from about 1940 or shortly before.

E. Sources of Information: Historic Buildings in Downtown Schenectady, booklet (Schenectady: Committee on Historic Markers, Schenectady County Historical Society, 1961), pp. 7-8.

Data in the files of John A. Miller and in the files of the Schenectady County Historical Society.

Interview with John A. Miller, 114 Front Street, Schenectady,
New York, on September 6, 1962.

Prepared by John A. Miller
Schenectady, New York
and Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
September 1962.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: An early Dutch house with interesting structural features typifying the area.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, generally.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: 24' frontage, about 50' depth; faces north. Two stories, rectangular layout.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone up to grade; not visible on exterior.
3. Wall construction: Brick front wall. Remainder of heavy timber frame filled with brick. Heavy hewn sill and plates.
4. Chimneys: One modern chimney centrally located in front portion, one old chimney at south end of rear portion.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Recessed entrance, wood lintel, over; reveal cased with wood. Door has four raised and fielded panels. Heavy, round molding frames door, side lights and transom.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Front: Double hung sash, six over six lights. Wood lintels; wood sills. Shutter pintles still in place. Simple, wood frame, wide masonry openings. Side: Windows have simple, wood trim. Pointed arched window with wood tracery in front gable.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable; gable fronts street. Modern asphalt composition shingles. Framed with heavy hewn rafters 5' apart, lepped, mortised, and pegged. No ridge pole. Ribs have dovetail mortises at joint to rafters.
 - b. Cornice: Single, wood cornice on front.
 - c. Dormers: Two half dormers on west side.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor: side hall with stairway, front room and smaller room behind, in original portion. Addition to rear contains one room and porch (behind hall). Second floor generally similar with evidence that a hall chamber once existed (now an alcove of the front room) Basement under original portion.

2. Stairways: Stairway may date from c. 1870. Open string, straight flight, with two balusters per tread, rounded handrail, turned newel.

3. Flooring: Framing of first floor: hewn joists about 10" x 13" laid flat, span whole width, spaced 5' apart. Wide hemlock boards 1-1/4" thick constituted original flooring--now covered. Second floor: Framing similar but lighter, exposed in front room; some alterations of uncertain date and character. Wide floor boards at second story.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered and papered.

5. Doorways and doors: Generally six-panel and four-panel.

6. Trim: Wood architrave trim. That of first story may date from 1870.

7. Heating One fireplace foundation exists in basement, but has been removed above. It is brick with central part open, spanned by brick arch to carry load above. One fireplace extant, at south end of addition.

D. Site: Faces north on narrow residential street. Built near sidewalk line, narrow side yard on west; Symon Speck house (early 18th century) adjoins on east. Small rear yard.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
September 1962.